



Wildflowers in Orland Grassland | | Orland Park, IL

IDOT releases first state bike plan

Governor Pat Quinn and Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider announced the release of the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan – the first statewide bicycle plan in Illinois’ history. The bike plan provides the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) with policies, best practices and strategic direction for implementing a sustainable, multi-modal transportation system across Illinois. The plan is part of Governor Quinn’s agenda to build a 21st century infrastructure that will drive Illinois’ economy forward.

“The Illinois Bike Transportation Plan will help develop a safer and more efficient transportation system for everyone who rides a bike in our state,” Governor Quinn said. “In Illinois we pride ourselves on our 21st century transportation system, and this plan will guide our future work to expand access to this safe, cost-effective and green form of transportation.”

The bike plan provides more than 200 recommendations and action

items to enhance IDOT’s ability to provide safe and cost-effective accommodations for cyclists across Illinois. The comprehensive recommendations address a variety of topics including facility design and maintenance, network gaps, grant funding programs, safety education and enforcement, and internal governance and coordination. In addition, the plan includes performance measures designed to evaluate progress towards implementation.

“The Illinois Bike Transportation Plan is framed around five key principles: safety, connectivity, access, choice and collaboration,” Secretary Schneider said. “These principles helped guide the development of the plan and will be instrumental to implementation. The plan will ensure that Illinois remains a model of excellence in sustainable transportation.”

The complete plan and accompanying technical documents can be found online at www.IllinoisBikePlan.com.

Every month
is
Earth Month



May 2014

- State Bike Plan
- Compost Awareness Week
- Green Jobs
- Skokie Swift: 50 Years of Transit

green.illinois.gov
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Conserve a tree.

Please do not print.

Events

Energy Efficiency Training Programs

IGEN

Ongoing Throughout May

Sustainability and the Built Environment

Roosevelt University

May 6

Green Cleaning Webinar

Healthy Schools Campaign

May 8

International Migratory Bird Day

May 10

Get Your Garden Growin' Green

SCARCE

May 10

Limelight

USGBC-Illinois

May 15

Rethinking Food Waste

Living a sustainable lifestyle requires embracing some of the less pleasant parts of life, like food waste. According to EPA, organics make up 28 percent of municipal solid waste. Last year, Americans generated 36 million tons of food waste. Only five percent of that—about 1.8 million pounds—makes its way to compost facilities.

International Compost Week aims to change this. From May 5-11, the U.S. Compost Council will host a series of webinars, conferences and home composting events highlighting the challenges and lessons learned from dealing with food waste. Though most of the Compost Council's work takes place in the Eastern United States, a number of key waste management organizations, government agencies and non-profits are tackling the problem in Illinois.

Recently, a number of compost bills passed the Illinois House—[HB2335, allowing community gardens and local operations to accept off-site compost, and](#) [HB3319, which amends IEPA rules to allow for rural compost operations to accept different kinds of off-site compost such as food scraps and animal bedding](#)—paving the way for a better solid waste management landscape and more food-scrap diversion.

For more information on Compost Awareness Week and food waste in Illinois, please visit the following resources:

-EPA Solid Waste Management
-IllinoisComposts.org
-SCARCE
-SWANCC
-SWALCO

Green Jobs Corner

- Various Opportunities in Energy Efficiency and Outreach
Elevate Energy
- Building Operators Certification (BOC) for Veterans
- Mighty Acorns Partnership Coordinator
The Field Museum
- UIC Summer Sustainability Institute
UIC
- Sustainability Director
University of Chicago
- Planning and Policy Analyst
Openlands
- Sustainability Fellow
City of Evanston



Events

**Grand Ridge Solar
Tour**
ISEA
May 16

**Earth Day and
Arbor Day
Celebration**
Village of Homer Glenn
May 17

GreenTown
UIC
May 21-22

**Higher Education
as a Change Agent**
GreenTown Workshop
May 21

**Advanced Lighting
Technical Webinar**
MEEA
May 22

**Reminder:
Benchmark Your
Buildings**
City of Chicago
June 1

**Illinois Renewable
Energy Conference**
Illinois State University
July 16

Towards a Greener Illinois

**Governor's
Sustainability Awards**
[Deadline: May 22, 2014](#)

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is now accepting applications for the 2014 Governor's Sustainability Awards. Since 1987, ISTC has recognized sustainability efforts and technological advances from public and private organizations throughout the state of Illinois—the oldest sustainability recognition program in the nation.

Drive Electric Illinois

The American Lung Association recently launched *DriveElectricIllinois.org*, a resource for electric vehicle owners and potential buyers. The website includes a comprehensive list of charging stations throughout Illinois, as well as information on the incentives and economics of an electric vehicle purchase.

Asthma Awareness Month

Pollution affects all of the people of Illinois, but its effect on asthma sufferers can be catastrophic. EPA recognizes May as Asthma Awareness Month, a time for learning about what people can do to help others with asthma and reduce the impact on the air in Illinois and across the nation.

Symposiums and Seminars

Spring brings with it a number of exciting environmental education opportunities.

**Green Drive\$
May 21, DuPage County
Fairgrounds**

The Chicago Area Clean Cities hosts a free event full of information on the very latest in green vehicle technology at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Industry experts will be on hand to discuss various environmentally-friendly vehicle technologies and provide a number of ride-and drive opportunities.

Registration closes May 14.

**Illinois Joint Recycling
Conference**
[June 3-4, Tinley Park](#)

The Illinois Recycling Association's *Joint Recycling Conference* brings together the best thinkers in Illinois waste management. From food scrap composting to DCEO grants for recycling, this conference features a wealth of speakers with waste management experience and expertise.

Fifty Years of the Skokie Swift

Fifty years ago the Skokie Swift revolutionized mass transit in Illinois. Now known as the Chicago Transit Authority's Yellow Line and offering service from Skokie to the Howard Red Line and onward to Chicago, the Skokie Swift was the first CTA investment to drastically affect suburban automobile usage.

CTA introduced its first park 'n ride facility on April 18th, 1964. In addition to the environmental benefits, the Skokie Swift was the first rail line to fully meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

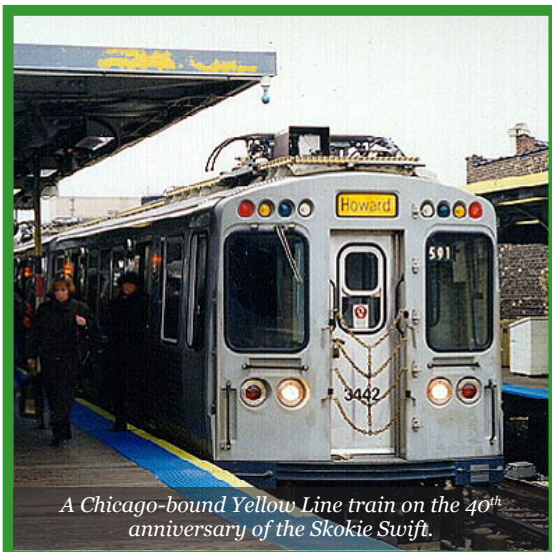
[Read Governor Quinn's statement on the Skokie Swift.](#)



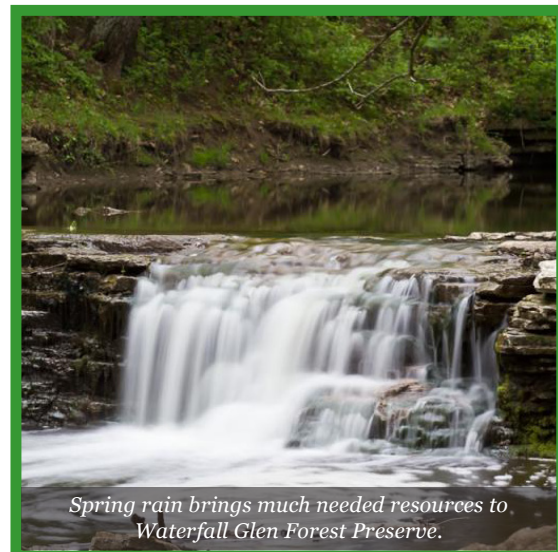
Governor Pat Quinn speaks about effectively managing our freshwater resources in Chicago.



A bald eagle soars over the Fox River.



A Chicago-bound Yellow Line train on the 40th anniversary of the Skokie Swift.



Spring rain brings much needed resources to Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve.

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